

NEWS RELEASE

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Kankakee Man Sentenced to More Than 24 Years in Prison for Drug Conviction

Urbana, IL: United States Attorney Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a Kankakee man was sentenced to more than 24 years in federal prison following his conviction on drug charges. Chief United States District Judge Michael P. McCuskey sentenced Marco Bell, age 34, of 1106 S. Washington, Kankakee, Illinois, to a term of 292 months imprisonment on December 14, 2006. The case resulted from an investigation conducted by the Kankakee Area Metropolitan Enforcement Group.

Bell pleaded guilty on August 25, 2006, to possessing with the intent to distribute both powder and crack cocaine. Court records showed that KAMEG agents executed a search warrant at Bell's residence on April 25, 2006. During the ensuing search, agents seized more than 25 grams of crack, more than 140 grams of cocaine, and more than 60 grams of marijuana. Bell admitted that he had been selling crack cocaine for the preceding 18 months.

In imposing the sentence, Judge McCuskey noted that the conviction was Bell's sixth felony conviction, including previous convictions for attempted residential burglary, aggravated criminal sexual assault, and aggravated battery with a firearm. Due to these convictions, Bell was sentenced as a "career offender," which provides for higher sentences for repeat offenders.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard N. Cox.

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